Episode 10- Mike Grows Up a Bit… and it SUCKS

scene 1- int. angell hall aud. A, dec 17 2010, 4PM

I'm sitting there during my final exam for film for dummies. PROF CULKIN strolls up to the front of the room.

prof culkin

I was going to use a clip from Citizen Kane, my one and only love. But that seemed to obvious, so I chose this instead. I don't want to give anything away, but keep your eye on the rectangular compositions for your analyses. I mean there's more to it than that, but why would you ignore the RECTANGLES? Okay, I said too much. Roll it.

The film rolls. It's "Walk on the Wild Side" intro or whatever the hell the movie with the blue and black and the cat is. I start writing stuff. MEL pops up and sits on my head.

melissa

You know one of the best parts about being imaginary? I can learn everything you learned without all the homework or tests!

mike

Well… you should. Do this exam.

MELISSA

No way dude. I only know it second hand from you. Besides, this clip is easy to analyze.

MIKE

I think I know what to do.

I start writing some stuff and she looks over my shoulder.

MELISSA

You're really going to write an essay about how awesome that cat is?

MIKE

Yeah, dude. It's like the colors and the pacing and everything makes the cat look like a badass. And even after fighting time, it's like so cool and it's like foreshadowing the tone of the movie or some shit. Easy, like you said.

MELISSA

I guess that works... I would have written about how this movie doesn't utilize rectangular framing and deep space as well as Citizen Kane and therefore is an inferior excuse of a film and unworthy of serious critical analysis.

MIKE

...I'm sure he'd love that, but I'll stick to my thing thanks.

MELISSA

Suit yourself. But hey, do you want me to count the number of seconds between cuts out loud? You can see if there's a correlation between the number of seconds and the length of the rectangle-

MIKE

MELISSA! THIS NOT A GEOMETRY CLASS!

MELISSA

Pfft. I know that. With the time factor it's more physics. So, if the projector plays at 24 frames per second, how many miles would a car going the same speed go in the duration of this clip? And how many laps could the car complete around a .25 mile rectangular neighborhood? Account for construction.

I plop my head down on my desk and groan.

MELISSA

You better watch the movie. You just missed like 5 possible rectangles-

MIKE

MELISSA!!!

MELISSA

MIKE!!!

intro sequence!!!

scene 2. int. mike's living room, dec 17 2010, 7PM

I walk in, throw my backpack into the corner and kick it around a bit, then plop down on the couch. MEL jumps on my back.

MELISSA

Alright! You made it through another semester!

MIKE

Thank god. If I had to sit through one more lecture I would have exploded into a million pieces.

MELISSA

A million rectangular-

MIKE

ENOUGH WITH THE FUCKING RECTANGLES!!!

MELISSA

Alright, alright. Chill out. But hey, look at the bright side. Next semester you can finally start taking some fun classes!

MIKE

There's no such thing as a fun class. Poop on college and the whole education system!

MELISSA

Come on, Mike. What's wrong with college?

MIKE

Ugh. Where do I start? Well, there's the whole thing that all the classes are WAY too wrapped up in elitist academia bullshit with no real world application. There's the fact that all my peers are either total snobs or brainless tools... sometimes both... and there's the totally unfair tuition rates that make it so only the rich can afford to go here-

MELISSA

Well, I can see how the first two can be annoying, but why do you care so much about the money thing? It's not like that's a problem for you.

MIKE

...I don't want to be a part of the system that perpetuates the rift between people, regardless of whether or not I'm paying for it...

MELISSA

My rebellious man. But look, you got three semesters to go. Then you can take your U of M degree, get an awesome gig, and live with me in a big treehouse. Now how does that sound?

MIKE

Sounds dreamy.

Kiss!

MIKE

If only I could skip to that part...

MELISSA

Not yet. Tell me something, Mike. And be honest. You're better off now than you were in high school, right?

MIKE

Oh, absolutely! High school sucked my balls! I mean jeez I have nightmares where I have to go back to high school for a semester for some stupid reason.

MELISSA

Yikes. Now that's scary.

MIKE

I know, right?

MELISSA

But you see? Things have been slowly but steadily getting better, and soon everything's gonna-

MIKE

Well, I wouldn't say my time in Kalamazoo was better. And I do miss some things about high school.

MELISSA

Well sure. There was gym class, senior blowoff classes, theater, snow days, lunch with the group... hey, everyone from the group is gonna be in town for winter break, right? Why don't you call everyone up tonight and sing and stomp and do whatever it is you guys do?

MIKE

Our group is not a glee club. I don't know though, I'm pretty tired. I kinda wanna just stay in and write or draw or-

The phone rings!

MIKE

Huh. Well so much for that.

I pick up the phone! Is JOE.

MIKE

Yello?

joe

WHAT UP HOMESKILLET???

MIKE

NOT MUCH WHAT'S UP WITH YOU CRACKER JACK!

JOE

AIN'T NOTHIN UP WITH ME!!! Except there is one problem.

MIKE

Boo hoo Joe has a problem. You should write a song and have it performed by Hawthorne Heights.

JOE

Actually my problem is how you're the world's biggest dumb person and you should leave it.

MIKE

YOU! ARE THOSE THINGS!!! So what do you want asswipe?

JOE

Nothin' much. I was wondering if you wanted to hang out tonight.

MIKE

Well I could do that or I could just sit here alone in the dark by myself.

I glance over at Melissa and grin.

JOE

What are you gonna do, write songs about the night man?

MIKE

What else is there to do in winter? Seriously though I can hang out sure. Who have you talked to?

JOE

I'm actually with James, Michael, Conor, and Lee right now.

MIKE

Oh. Well, when were you all planning on-

They all come walking in with JOE still on the phone. MELISSA poofs away.

MIKE

Wow guys, just invite yourself in why don't you.

michael

Okay.

He goes over and sits on the couch.

MIKE

Great. Well, since Michael has, everyone else might as well take a seat!

We all scramble for seats. JOE and JAMES fight for the last spot on the couch, but there's not quite enough space and they start knocking shit over.

MIKE

Come on, guys. Cut that shit out-

They get the Charlie Brown Christmas Tree on the table and it starts playing music. We dance! Cut ahead to us playing Risk.

MIKE

Fuck. One.

james

Three sixes.

MIKE

Three sixes? The devil's number! EARTHQUAKE!!!

I shake up the board like an asshole!

JAMES

Hey whatever I still won. And now you have to clean up this mess, slave. My farts smell like gold.

MIKE

Gold doesn't have a smell. Your farts smell like asshole, asshole.

JAMES

TALK NOT TO YOUR MASTER LIKE THAT!

Cut to us LEE and I playing Buddokai 3! I'm RECOOME and he's KRILLEN.

lee

Get some, Krillen!

mike

RECOOME BOOM!

RECOOME

LET'S MAKE IT OVER!

RECOOME booms KRILLEN and kills him.

LEE

Oh man! Well that's embarrasing.

JOE

Yeah, you lost to an idiot!

MIKE

Why do they make Recoome sound like an idiot in all DBZ games?

LEE

Yeah, I don't know. In the Japanese version he's actually the smartest-

conor

Can we do something else maybe?

MIKE

What's the matter, Conor? Would you rather go to a Vampire Weekend concert?

CONOR

I would, actually.

Cut ahead to all of us just sittin' around shootin' the shit.

JAMES

Check this out.

He pulls out a little dragon satchel thingy.

MIKE

Cool. You keep your dildos in there?

JAMES

Hey I'll have you know a girl made this for me.

MIKE

Oh I didn't know your sister was so talented.

JAMES

Ha. Unlike you, I actually have a dating life. Boom.

MIKE

Actually for your information-

He pulls out a weed pipe and some weed.

JAMES

Oh yeah, I smoke now. Anyone want to join me?

Nobody does.

james

Alright, more for me.

MIKE

Smoke outside please.

JAMES gives me a look and goes out to smoke.

MIKE

Pot... women... a massive ego... is this the same nerd who built his own computer in high school?

MICHAEL

Well, apart from the ego, no.

CONOR

Do you still hang out with him at Eastern, Michael?

MICHAEL

No, he's usually too busy hanging out with his theater friends. Smoking and drinking and being boring, I'm sure.

Joe

Well, he's popular now. So that's what happens.

MIKE

Of all the people... Anyways what are we gonna do next?

JOE

I don't know, I'm kind of hungry. I'm thinking Meijer run.

MIKE

You mean go to the Meijer all the way out by my parent's house?

JOE

Yeah... I'm a creature of habit I guess.

mike

Well...

scene 3- ext. mike's parking lot, DEC 17 2010, 11PM

We all pass by JAMES smoking by himself.

MIKE

Finish your smoke, Shaggy. We're going to Meijer I guess.

JAMES

The one by your old house? Why???

MIKE

Man, do you have any better ideas or what to do?

james

No...

scene 4- int. meijer, dec 17 2010, 11:30PM

Everyone's together browsing the store and causing trouble. CONOR, JOE and I drift off on our own.

MIKE

So how is Kalamazoo? Still the worst place in the world?

JOE

I mean, it's whatever. I'm having fun at Western, though. It's not the same without you, though.

MIKE

Yeah well, that's why we gotta live it up here. And how are you, Conor?

CONOr

It's all good. Western's alright, I've been getting out more and doing community theater stuff.

MIKE

How's living with your sister?

CONOR

It's cool. I must warn you though, if you ever come visit, on a clear day you can just make out the bell tower of Kalamazoo College!

MIKE

Well, no offense, but you don't have to worry about that. Excuse me, I'm gonna go get some cat food while I'm here.

I wander off towards the cat food. MEL pops in for a sec.

MELISSA

Cat food eh? For me?

MIKE

Would you eat it? You are part cat.

MELISSA

Pfft not even... maybe... anyways, YOU HAVING FUN?

mike

Eh...

MELISSA

Eh? Why just "eh"?

MIKE

It's just... eh. Things aren't the same with everyone off doing their own thing, you know? I don't know, maybe I'm just not in the mood to hang tonight...

MELISSA

Ah well it's the group's first gettogether since September, so that's gonna happen. It'll pass. Uh oh, someone's coming.

POOF. JAMES comes in.

JAMES

Cat food? For you?

MIKE

No, for my cat, stupid.

JAMES

You're the one with the STUPID CAT HAT!

MIKE

Your stupid hat.

JAMES

What?

scene 5- int. mike's car, dec 18 2010, midnight

JOE, JAMES and I get into my car.

JOE

Oh, Michael's taking Conor and Lee home.

MIKE

Uh oh. Lee left his bag in my car.

MICHAEL goes speeding off and we chase after him. We get stuck at the same red light. JOE tries rolling down the window. The light turns green and MICHAEL speeds off.

JOE

WE HAVE LEE'S BAG! NO, STOP YOU IDIOT!

MIKE

What is he doing???

JOE

He thinks we're racing. Crazy idiot!

JAMES

Wow, he's going way too fast. He's going to-

We drive after his speeding ass. He drives a corner, then we pull it, and we see the ending of his car hitting a fawn.

mike

Oh no...

I pull over and we stare out for a sec before the COMMERCIAL BREAK. We're all still pulled over when we get back.

JOE

That's what you get when you drive like a fucking idiot.

He gets out and goes to the deer. I sit for a second and I go to it too.

scene 6- ext. jackson road, dec 18 2010, midnight

I walk over to the little fawn, toppled over and bleeding everywhere. It's head is sticking out in the right lane. Cars are still coming at us but I don't care. JOE is looking at it as I come up.

MIKE

Well... let's get it out of the road-

It moves it's little leg and we stop dead in our tracks. I cover my mouth with my hand and we stand there paralyzed. I go up and I put my hand on it's fur and stroke it gently. It winces, but stops.

MIKE

I'm so sorry, buddy...

JOE comes over and puts his hand on it too. We stand there and look into it's fading pain-filled eyes. A car passes by like right next to us.

MIKE

Okay, buddy. This is going to hurt a bit, but it'll all go away soon.

I pick up the deer and try to hold up it's head as it flops over. I walk over and try to put it down in the snow as delicately as possible. I look at horror at my blood covered gloves and coat. I look at it for about ten seconds more. He seems to be fading out.

JOE

Is he gone?

MIKE

I think so...

I wait for a few more seconds then I head back to the car. At my car I take of my gloves and my coat and put them in the trunk. JAMES comes out.

JAMES

I called roadside. They're going to come pick it up in the morning.

MIKE

...Okay...

JAMES

Is it...

MIKE

Yeah, it is now.

Beat.

JAMES

Well, if there's anything positive about the situation, it's that it was over quickly. He didn't have to suffer for long.

MIKE

...Yeah...

MICHAEL, LEE, and CONOR walk up from up the road.

james

How's your car?

michael

Well the right headlight is completely busted, but the rest is alright.

MIKE (v.o.)

Who gives a fuck about your headlight? A baby deer just died for no reason!

LEE

Where's your coat and gloves?

MIKE

I took them off... they were covered in blood...

LEE

You touched it??? Mike, that's like... (makes an X symbol)

MIKE

I didn't want it to get hit again.

LEE

But Mike, think! You could get sick! Don't be silly!

MIKE

LEE, RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE! ALRIGHT?

I walk away for a sec.

JOE

Lee... lay off. Seriously.

MIKE

I hope you guys don't mind if I don't feel like hanging out any more tonight.

Murmurs of understanding.

MIKE

I'll see you guys later this week.

We go our separate ways to our cars.

scene 7- ext. miller street, dec 18 2010, 12:30Am

I drop JOE off at his house. He gets out.

MIKE

I'll see you later.

JOE

Yup... (beat) For the record, I think you did the right thing. And the positive energy from that act will spread out and make the world a better place.

MIKE

Well... thanks. I don't really believe that, but thanks.

JOE

Well... damn, I tried. See you later.

He gets out and I start to drive off. MEL pops in the driver's seat.

MELISSA

Mike? Are you alright...? ...Mike?

I shout as loud as I can and I punch the ceiling of the car.

MELISSA

That's alright, baby. Just get it all out. Don't hold it in sweetheart. Let it out if you have to.

She brushes my cheek. I begin to tear up.

MELISSA

That's good, sweetie. Let it out. Do you need to pull over?

I cry more. She grabs the wheel.

MELISSA

Here, we'll just pull in here for a sec, alright? Just so you're good to drive.

We pull into a parking lot and I start flat out bawling. She climbs over into the driver's seat and we embrace.

MELISSA

It's okay, Mike. I'm here for you. And as long as you want me around I always will be. (beat) You know I love you more than anything, right?

We kiss, then go back to embracing. She gives me a sweet little lick and I return the favor.

MELISSA

There. Now let's just sit here for a minute and we'll go and get you cleaned up and into some new clothes, alright? Then we'll watch some movies and have a good night's sleep, alright?

I nod.

MELISSA

Okay then. Let's just sit here then. Just sit...

We sit there embracing as I continue to cry.

scene 8- int. parent's house bathroom, dec 18th 2010, 1AM

I'm sitting in the shower/tub as the shower water pours down on my head. MEL is in there too and offers to scrub my back.

MELISSA

There, now isn't this better? Let's just wash the whole night away. Just clean it off.

MIKE

I can't just wash it away...

MELISSA

Well, at least we can do something about the blood. Arms up?

I put my arms up and she scrubs my sides.

MIKE

I wish I wasn't a human.

MELISSA

Come on, Mike. Don't talk like that-

MIKE

I mean it. I hate being a part of this stupid species. Every day they just murder little animals like that every day and it makes me sick! Why couldn't Michael have hit some child pornographer or some vapid, elitist rich kid? That little deer didn't do nothin' wrong...

MELISSA

First off, would you really want to deal with the legal bullshit of hitting a person?

MIKE

Here's a question. Why isn't the death of that little fawn a legal issue?

MELISSA

Because legality is lame and animals don't need it. It's still a moral issue, and if you ask me that's all that matters. But even so, a life is a life is a life. I'm sure it would have been just as awful if it was a scuzzy person, or a duckie, or even a fish monster. All life is precious, and tonight would have been awful not matter what he happened to hit.

MIKE

I... I don't know.

MELISSA

Shh. No more talking. Let's just feel the water clean everything away. (Beat) Wash my back?

MIKE

Sure.

I wash her back and stuff.

scene 9- int. parent's house upstairs hallway, dec 18 2010, 1:20 AM

I'm in clean clothes now and I make my way towards the exit. MOM opens the door to her bedroom as I'm about to head out.

mom

Oh, hi. I didn't hear you come in.

MIKE

Sorry, I didn't mean to wake you. I'm just here to wash some clothes.

MOM

At 1:20 in the morning? Did something happen?

MIKE

Yeah... Michael hit a deer... and I had to move it out of the road so all my clothes are covered in blood.

MOM

Oh... well, is everyone else alright?

MIKE

Yeah, Michael just needs a new headlight is all...

MOM

Are you alright? You seem a bit shaken up.

MIKE

I've been better... I could use a hug though.

She comes over and gives me a hug.

MIKE

It's... I mean I've hit a couple animals with my car before, but this was so much worse... I think it's because it was still barely alive when we pulled over.

MOM

Oh no... that's too bad. Did you have to...

MIKE

No, it passed after I moved it... hey Mom, should I have not moved it? I mean am I going to get sick or something from touching it?

MOM

What makes you think that?

MIKE

Well, Lee was making a big fuss because I moved it for some reason. I was just wondering if it was a sanitation thing.

MOM

You just took a shower, right?

I nod.

MOM

Then you should be fine. Are you going to be alright though?

MIKE

Yeah, just gotta get some sleep and move on to the next day...

MOM

Well, if you don't feel like driving tonight you're more than welcome to stay here.

MIKE

Thanks, but I should get back. I need to feed my pets.

mom

Okay, well drive safe. Goodnight.

MIKE

I love you, mom.

MOM

Love you too. Night.

She goes back to bed. I head down the stairs. As I'm about to leave I see BAMBI on the video shelf.

MIKE

Goddamn it...

I grab the VHS before I go.

scene 10- int. mike's living room, dec 18 2010, 2am

I'm sitting there debating between watching BAMBI and VAMPIRE'S KISS. MELISSA comes in and makes me put BAMBI away.

MELISSA

Not tonight.

I put VAMPIRE'S KISS into the DVD player and start watching it. MELISSA and I lie back on the couch and cuddle as the move begins.

MIKE

Melissa, why am I so bothered by the death of some deer that I didn't even know? I mean, I've had family members and pets die before, shouldn't I be numb to it by now?

MELISSA

I hope you never get numb to it.

She kisses my cheek.

MIKE

So you want me to feel miserable about all the suffering and death in the world forever? Thanks a lot, jerk.

MELISSA

Don't be a sassy ass. Let me explain... you've got a certain something special in you. Not many people have it, even though it seems like they do. Can you guess what it is?

MIKE

An invisible girlfriend?

MELISSA

Well, yes... but what I'm trying to say is you have a heart. So even when you try to act like a too cool to care superdude, that's why you feel so bad about tonight. And that's why I chose to be with you in the first place.

MIKE

You didn't choose to be with me. I just made you up.

MELISSA

You sure about that?

MIKE

Man, I'm not sure about anything right now. There's only one thing that I know for sure.

MELISSA

What's that?

MIKE

NIC CAGE IS A VAMPIRE!

nic cage

I'M A VAMPIRE!!! I'M A VAMPIRE!!! I'M A VAMPIRE!!! I'M A VAMPIRE!!!

MELISSA

Of course. The one and only universal truth. So tell me, Mike, what's the ratio between the rectangles in that sequence and the amount of-

MIKE

THIS JOKE NEEDS TO END!!!

outro sequence!!!

Well... that was depressing. Now I need to go watch Bambi. And so do you!